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The Food Stamp Program's Elderly Nutrition Pilot Demonstration

Initial Evaluation Design

**By Merrile Sing, Scott Cody, Michael Sinclair,
Rhoda Cohen, and James Ohls, Mathematica
Policy Research, Inc.**

**ERS project representative: Elizabeth Dagata,
edagata@ers.usda.gov, 202-694-5422**

Abstract

Low participation rates in the Food Stamp Program (FSP) by poor elderly individuals have been a persistent problem. Historically, no more than one-third of eligible elderly have participated in the FSP—a participation rate far lower than that of any other major demographic group. To address the low participation rates among the elderly, USDA is funding the Elderly Nutrition Demonstrations—six separate pilot programs that are testing three alternative ways to increase elderly participation in the FSP. This report presents the design for evaluating the six demonstrations. The design includes an impact analysis to evaluate the effects of the demonstrations on FSP participation, average benefit levels, client satisfaction, and ongoing administrative costs. The design also includes a process analysis to describe the implementation process and to identify the effects of the demonstrations on stakeholders.

CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
I.	OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES	1
A.	THE PROBLEM OF LOW FSP PARTICIPATION RATES BY THE ELDERLY.....	2
B.	THREE DEMONSTRATION MODELS TO INCREASE THE ELDERLY'S FSP PARTICIPATION RATES.....	4
1.	Simplified Eligibility and Benefit Determination Model.....	5
2.	Application Assistance for Eligible Elderly Model	7
3.	Alternative Food Stamp Commodity Benefit Model	9
C.	OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION	12
1.	Assess the Effects of the Demonstrations on Elderly FSP Participation	15
2.	Assess the Effects of the Demonstrations on the Average Value of FSP Benefits that Elderly Households Receive	15
3.	Assess the Effects of the Demonstrations on Client Satisfaction	16
4.	Quantify the Federal, State, and Local Costs of the Demonstrations	16
5.	Assess the Effects of the Demonstrations on Stakeholders.....	17
6.	Describe the Implementation of the Demonstrations	17
D.	STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT	18
II.	EVALUATING THE EFFECTS ON FSP PARTICIPATION AND BENEFITS.....	19
A.	RESEARCH QUESTIONS.....	19
B.	STUDY DESIGN	20
1.	Pre-Post Comparison Group Design	21
2.	Comparison Site Selection	24

CONTENTS (*continued*)

Chapter		Page
II.	(<i>continued</i>)	
C.	OUTCOME MEASURES.....	25
1.	Participation Impacts for All Models	26
2.	Benefit Impacts for the Simplified Eligibility and Application Assistance Models.....	26
3.	Benefit Impacts for the Commodity Alternative Model	27
D.	DATA SOURCES.....	31
E.	ANALYTICAL APPROACH.....	33
1.	Analytic Time Periods.....	34
2.	Pre-Post Comparisons	36
3.	The Estimation of Impacts	42
4.	Determining Whether an Impact Is Meaningful.....	45
5.	Final Synthesis Analysis	46
III.	EFFECTS ON CLIENT SATISFACTION	49
A.	RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS	49
B.	MEASURING CLIENT SATISFACTION WITH THE DEMONSTRATIONS: OVERVIEW OF METHODOLOGY	50
C.	SAMPLE DESIGN	53
1.	The Target Population and Sampling Frame.....	54
2.	Site-Level Sample Design: Census or Sample?	58
3.	Stratification and Sample Allocation Plan	58
4.	Sample Weighting and Nonresponse Adjustments	62
5.	Statistical Precision	63
D.	SURVEY TOPICS	64
E.	SURVEY DESIGN	82
1.	Instrument Length and Mode	82
2.	Languages.....	83
3.	Eligibility.....	83

CONTENTS (*continued*)

Chapter		Page
	4. Proxies	84
	5. Pretesting	84
	6. Locating Sample Members and Gaining Their Cooperation	86
	7. Confidentiality.....	90
F.	ANALYTIC APPROACH	90
	1. Univariate Analysis	91
	2. Multivariate Analysis	92
G.	STRUCTURED DISCUSSIONS WITH HOUSEHOLDS THAT STARTED BUT DID NOT COMPLETE A FSP APPLICATION.....	96
IV.	QUANTIFYING THE COSTS OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS	99
A.	RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND QUESTIONS	99
B.	METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH.....	100
C.	FEDERAL COSTS	104
	1. Changes in the Costs of FSP Benefits	104
	2. Changes in the Administrative Costs of Providing Benefits.....	104
D.	COSTS TO THE STATE/LOCAL GRANTEES AND THEIR NONPROFIT PARTNERS	104
	1. Demonstration Start-Up Costs	108
	2. Costs of Serving Clients During the Demonstration.....	111
	3. Costs of Producing Reports and Providing Data.....	113
E.	COSTS TO THE COMPARISON SITES	113
V.	PROCESS ANALYSIS: DESCRIBING THE IMPLI- MENTATION PROCESS AND ASSESSING EFFECTS ON STAKEHOLDERS	115
A.	RESEARCH QUESTIONS.....	115

CONTENTS (*continued*)

Chapter		Page
V.	(<i>continued</i>)	
B.	TOPICS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION ANALYSIS AND DEMON-STRATION EFFECTS ON STAKEHOLDERS.....	117
1.	Community Context and Demonstration Goals	117
2.	Demonstration Structure	120
3.	Description of Demonstration Services.....	120
4.	Implementation Process	125
5.	Accomplishments, Challenges, and Lessons Learned	128
C.	DATA COLLECTION METHODS	131
1.	Continuous Monitoring	131
2.	Site Visits	131
3.	Quarterly Reports	133
4.	Structured Discussion Groups	133
D.	DATA ANALYSIS AND SYNTHESIS	134
	REFERENCES	137
	APPENDIX A: COMPARISON SITE SELECTION	
	APPENDIX B: SPECIFICATIONS FOR STATE CASERECORD EXTRACT AND SURVEY CONTACT DATABASE	
	APPENDIX C: DEMONSTRATION STAKEHOLDERS	

TABLES

Chapter		Page
I.1	OVERVIEW OF EVALUATION OBJECTIVES, DATA SOURCES, AND EVALUATION DESIGN ISSUES	13
II.1	HYPOTHETICAL PRE-POST IMPLEMENTATION COMPARISON.....	22
II.2	EVALUATION COMPARISONS FOR EACH SITE PARTICIPATING IN THE DEMONSTRATION	37
III.1	ESTIMATED APPLICANTS BY SITE AND CENSUS VS. SAMPLING RECOMMENDATIONS.....	59
III.2	EXPECTED PRECISION LEVELS BY SITE FOR VARIOUS DESIGN EFFECTS: OVERALL AND FOR SUBGROUP ESTIMATES.....	65
III.3	SURVEY TOPICS	66
III.4A	DESCRIPTIVE COMPARISON OF SAMPLE MEMBERS.....	93
III.4B	DESCRIPTIVE COMPARISON OF SAMPLE MEMBERS' OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH FSP.....	94
III.5	OUTCOME VARIABLE(S) AND CLIENT GROUP ESTIMATED ODDS RATIOS	97
IV.1	CHANGE IN AVERAGE FSP BENEFITS FOR THE ELDERLY DUE TO DEMONSTRATION.....	105
IV.2	CHANGE IN FSP BENEFITS FOR THE ELDERLY WHO SELECT THE COMMODITY OPTION.....	106
IV.3	DISTRIBUTION OF FSP BENEFITS AMONG THE ELDERLY WHO SELECT THE COMMODITY OPTION.....	107
IV.4	COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THE ELDERLY NUTRITION DEMONSTRATIONS	109
IV.5	LABOR COST OF [ACTIVITY NAME].....	110

TABLES (*continued*)

Table		Page
IV.6	COSTS OF SERVING CLIENTS UNDER THE DEMONSTRATION	112
IV.7	REPORTING COSTS	114
V.1	COMMUNITY CONTEXT AND DEMONSTRATION GOALS.....	118
V.2	DEMONSTRATION STRUCTURE	121
V.3	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES.....	122
V.4	IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS.....	126
V.5	ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES.....	129
V.6	LESSONS LEARNED.....	130
V.7	TOPICS AND DATA SOURCES FOR THE ELDERLY NUTRITION PROCESS ANALYSIS	132